RESOLUTION
on independent assessments of national public economic policies
CC-R-2015-01

The Contact Committee,

Having reviewed the proposals for new activities put forward by the liaison officers in 2015;

Decides to establish an expert network aimed at the enhancement of cooperation among SAIs with reference to the independent assessments of national public economic policies presented to national parliaments;

Agrees that this activity shall be carried out in accordance with the Activity Proposal attached to this resolution;

Asks Liaison Officers to report to the Contact Committee on the results of this activity in an appropriate way.

Decides that this Resolution should be posted on the Contact Committee website.

Riga, 19 June 2015

SAI Rapporteur: SAI of Latvia
Original Language: EN
ACTIVITY PROPOSAL

Topic: Establishment of an Expert Network aimed at the enhancement of cooperation among SAIs with reference to the independent assessments in the reports presented to national parliaments.

Suggested by: SAI of Italy
Ready to lead: YES

Brief description of the concrete proposed activity

The EU Supreme Audit Institutions are called, in their role as guarantor of the public finances equilibria, to express neutral assessments on national public economic policies, in order to ensure the compliance with the rules of New European Governance.

This is a field in which it seems appropriate to stimulate cooperation among SAIs. The Contact Committee is therefore the natural venue to deepen the types and methods of assessment of the SAIs, the technicalities adopted and the results achieved when, both on the government and on the parliamentary field, their observations are taken into account.

These profiles are therefore in line with the logic and the provisions of the European Governance that, in the European Semester, provides for coordination of economic and budgetary policies within the EU.

It should therefore be designed a real path of the evaluation process of the SAI which underlines its importance for the substantial contribution that it gives to the practical application of European rules.

The proposed Expert Network, aimed at the enhancement of cooperation among SAIs with reference to the independent assessments in the reports presented to national parliaments would:

- draw up a framework based on the reports of financial trends that are produced at all levels of Government of a selected number of SAIs with similar practices; the reports analyzed should be as complete as possible and the framework should also underline how they are carried out and with which methodologies;
- provide for neutral assessments on the public policies planning, in a circular process that from the results obtained gets the "feed-back" to spread the "best practices" on one side and secondly, to overcome the pathologies, within the planning process, to monitoring the developments, afterword drawing the amendments to be made to the same, and to assess the results achieved.

These results should be achieved, for the most part, by means of exchange of emails and surveys and it could be considered the opportunity of a seminar dealing with this issue and open to all CC member SAIs for a more effective comparison.

Once outlined the main features from the analysis of the reports and exchange of information of the selected SAIs, the practice could be hopefully extended to other SAIs.

Provisional timetable:

October/November 2015

a questionnaire, drawn up by the Italian SAI, can be sent to all that Institutions, having a sound and continuous relationship
with the national Parliaments as regards the public policies and the basic financial statements, interested in taking part in the Network in order to have an exchange of good practices and to share the consequential adjustments adopted by the national Governments.

January 2016
- gathering of replies (Corte dei conti)

February-April 2016
- sharing of the replies within the Experts Network and common elaboration of the main points emerging from the replies (Expert network by means of emails or web conference if applicable)
- Drafting a document to be presented during an ad hoc Seminar

2016 (tbd)
- Seminar open to all SAIs spreading the main achievements and best practices resulting from the elaboration of the outcomes of the survey (hosted by Corte dei conti)